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and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

Item#1

BARACK OBAMA, KEVIN RUDD AND THE ALLIANCE: AMERICAN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVES. Lowy Institute for International Policy. Michael O' August 2009.

A good deal has been written about the Australia-U.S. alliance over the past decade, but almost all of it, naturally enough, described the alliance as it developed under the stewardship of conservative leaders in Washington and Canberra. Now the alliance is in the hands of a Democratic president and a Labor prime minister. The paper sets out the views of two analysts, one American and one Australian, on the developing relationship between President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and the kind of alliance over which they will preside.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/08_america_australia_fullilove/08_america_australia_fullilove.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#2

BROKEN LAWS, UNPROTECTED WORKERS: VIOLATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR LAWS IN AMERICA'S CITIES. National Employment Law Project et al. Annette Bernhardt et al. September 2009.

The report exposes a world of work in which the core protections that many Americans take for granted: the right to be paid at least the minimum wage, the right to be paid for overtime hours, the right to take meal breaks, access to workers' compensation when injured, and the right to advocate for better working conditions, are failing significant numbers of workers. According to the report, the sheer breadth of the problem, spanning key industries in the economy, as well as its profound impact on workers, entailing significant economic hardship, demands urgent attention.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://nelp.3cdn.net/1797b93dd1ccdf9e7d_sdm6bc50n.pdf [PDF format, 72 pages].

Item#3

CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS. Council on Foreign Relations. Youkyung Lee. August 10, 2009.

Taiwan, whose leaders continue to talk about independence, remains a focal point of Chinese military modernization.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/9223/chinataiwan_relations.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

A CLEAR BLUE FUTURE: HOW GREENING CALIFORNIA CITIES CAN ADDRESS WATER RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY. Natural Resources Defense Council. Noah Garrison et al. August 10, 2009.

The report highlights low impact development, or LID, as a land planning and engineering design approach for storm water management. LID enables cities, states, and individuals to increase access to safe and reliable sources of water while reducing the amount of energy consumed and global warming pollution generated when delivering water to residents.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.nrdc.org/water/lid/files/lid.pdf> [PDF format, 56 pages]

Item#5

FEMA'S SOURCING FOR DISASTER RESPONSE GOODS & SERVICES. Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. August 2009.

When disaster strikes, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must be prepared to quickly provide goods and services to help state and local governments respond to the disaster. Operational procedures that guide FEMA's disaster response call for a single-point ordering concept to provide goods and services efficiently and effectively, while minimizing the risk of duplication and waste. However, implementation of this concept has been limited owing to existing stovepipes, overreliance on the existing sourcing process, and poor integration of information technology systems, according to the report.

Full Text:

http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmtrpts/OIG_09-96_Aug09.pdf [PDF format, 35 pages].

Item#6

FIGHTING OIL ADDICTION: RANKING STATES' OIL VULNERABILITY AND SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE. Natural Resources Defense Council. Deron Lovaas. August 2009.

America's addiction to oil continues to threaten not only our national security and global environmental health, but also our economic viability. The report analyzes how heavily drivers in each state are affected by increases in oil prices and ranked states on their adoption of solutions to reduce their oil dependence, measures they are taking to lessen their vulnerability and to bolster America's security.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.nrdc.org/energy/states/files/states.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

Item#7

A GLOBAL FUND FOR EDUCATION: ACHIEVING EDUCATION FOR ALL. Brookings Institution. David Gartner. August 31, 2009.

In order to realize the world's commitment to ensuring education for all by 2015, important innovations and reforms will be needed in the governance and financing of global education. In 2008, Presidential Candidate Barack Obama committed to making sure that every child has the chance to learn by creating a Global Fund for Education. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has recently called for a new architecture of global cooperation that requires institutions to "combine the efficiency and capacity for action with inclusiveness." A new Global Fund for Education should be an independent and inclusive multi-

stakeholder institution that builds upon existing institutions and supports country-driven solutions, says the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/08_education_gartner/08_education_gartner.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

Item#8

INCOME, POVERTY, AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE IN THE UNITED STATES: 2008. Bureau of the Census. Carmen DeNavas-Walt et al. September 10, 2009.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that real median household income in the United States fell 3.6 percent between 2007 and 2008, from \$52,163 to \$50,303. This breaks a string of three years of annual income increases and coincides with the recession that started in December 2007. The nation's official poverty rate in 2008 was 13.2 percent, up from 12.5 percent in 2007. There were 39.8 million people in poverty in 2008, up from 37.3 million in 2007. Meanwhile, the number of people without health insurance coverage rose from 45.7 million in 2007 to 46.3 million in 2008, while the percentage remained unchanged at 15.4 percent.

Full Text:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p60-236.pdf> [PDF format, 74 pages].

Item#9

MANY LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES TURN TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR HELP. UrbanInstitute. Sheila R. Zedlewski and Ei Yin Mon. August 10, 2009.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides essential help in purchasing food for most low-income Americans. Most families can qualify for benefits if their assets and income fall below minimum levels. SNAP caseloads are at an all-time high due to the recession and to program changes making it easier to receive benefits. The majority of working families that receive assistance are headed by single parents that work part time. SNAP benefits substantially reduce poverty, especially deep poverty, when benefits are added to cash income.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411938_snapforhelp.pdf [PDF format, 9 pages].

Item#10

THE OBAMA PLAN: STABILITY & SECURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS. The White House. September 2009.

“It will provide more security and stability to those who have health insurance. It will provide insurance to those who don’t. And it will lower the cost of health care for our families, our businesses, and our government,” says President Obama.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health_care/plan/ [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11

RECESSION TURNS A GRAYING OFFICE GRAYER. Pew Research Center. September 3, 2009.

The American work force is graying and not just because the American population itself is graying. Older adults are staying in the labor force longer, and younger adults are staying out of it longer. Both trends took shape about two decades ago. Both have intensified during the current recession. And both are expected to continue after the economy recovers. According to one government estimate, 93% of the growth in the U.S. labor force from 2006 to 2016 will be among workers ages 55 and older.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1330/american-work-force-is-graying> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#12

SIX CRITICAL POINTS FOR SUDAN AND ITS FUTURE. U.S. Institute of Peace. Jon Temin. September 2009.

Over the past few months, much of the international attention devoted to Sudan has focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), if and when nationwide elections will happen and the 2011 referendum on the status of southern Sudan. Yet, there are other aspects of the north-south dynamic deserving of discussion and strategic thinking that don’t receive their due. The author examines six important issues and questions that require more consideration as the decisive events in Sudan’s political history approach.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.usip.org/files/resources/six_points_sudan.pdf [PDF format, 9 pages].

Item#13

U.S. POLICY SHIFT NEEDED IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. Council on Foreign Relations. Bronwyn E. Bruton. August 6, 2009.

U.S. strategic interests in the Horn of Africa center on preventing Somalia from becoming a safe haven for al-Qaeda or other transnational jihadist groups. In pursuing its counter terror strategy, the United States has found common cause with Ethiopia, says the author. The United States has recently taken positive steps to disaggregate its Somalia policy from that of Ethiopia. These steps include diplomatic

outreach to Eritrea and public attempts to restrain Ethiopian military action in response to the escalating violence in Mogadishu.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/19982/us_policy_shift_needed_in_the_horn_of_africa.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fregion_issue_brief [HTML format, various paging].

Item#14

WILL JAPAN FINALLY GET A CABINET THAT MAKES POLICY? YaleGlobal. Karel van Wolferen. September 10, 2009.

For all of Japan's economic prowess and impact on the rest of the world, in one area the country has remained relatively diffident: foreign policy. While reasons for such a stance lie in Japanese public opinion, an important factor is Japan's status as a virtual protectorate of the U.S. In the past, Japan rarely rocked the boat when it came to U.S. geopolitical and strategic goals, creating a situation where the world's second largest industrial power seemed non-existent on the world stage, according to the author. He believes that this will change with election of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), which is intent on making policy decisions instead of leaving it in the hands of bureaucrats.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/will-japan-finally-get-cabinet-makes-policy> [HTML format, various paging].